

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, March 18th, I missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall vote 76—"yea"—Journal Vote; rollcall vote 77—"yea"—H. Con. Res. 18—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officer Memorial Service; rollcall vote 78—"yea"—H. Con. Res. 19—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

## RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I had the honor of joining hundreds of fellow Americans at an open-carry walk in Brookville, Pennsylvania, which is located in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania. As a responsible gun owner, I was proud to join this peaceful gathering among citizens to reaffirm the fundamental significance of an individual's constitutionally protected right to bear arms.

The right to own firearms has nothing to do with hunting. The Second Amendment was adopted as part of our Constitution to assure the safety and security of our Nation, our States, as well as our families, our homes and our personal selves.

Many of my constituents are alarmed at the gun control proposals being considered in the U.S. Senate for fear they violate this sacred constitutional right. I share this concern.

When it comes to violence prevention, I believe there are areas of policy that can be improved upon, especially in the area of mental health. The people of Brookville and so many others across this Nation want this body to come together on solutions to thwart future acts of mass violence, but they will not tolerate—and I will fight against—any violation of constitutionally protected rights.

## CONGRATULATING HAYWARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hayward Education Foundation, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. This organization was founded by Hayward school teacher Elaine Adams in 1983. This nonprofit grants money to Hayward school teachers with creative ideas to inspire and enrich their educational experience.

In 2012, grants were given to the butterfly garden at Longwood Elementary, a solar cell car at Bret Harte Middle School, and a college motivation program at Hayward High School. In its 30-year history, the foundation has given out over \$1 million.

I want to acknowledge the board of directors: Dianne McDermott, Pastor Chuck Horner, Rick Bartholomew, Peter Bufete, Paul Hodges and Penny Hodges, Guy Sandoval, Bruce Roberts, Maria Servin, Andrea Pa-Shote, Don Evans and Bill Liu.

Hayward's motto is the "Heart of the Bay," but it is the heart and mind and forward thinking of these individuals that really enriches Hayward and makes it such a special place to live.

So I want to congratulate them on their 30th anniversary and wish them well in their next 30 years.

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the University of Illinois, and I am proud to represent its flagship university in Champaign-Urbana.

The U of I plans to launch a university-affiliated technology development laboratory in Chicago. This collaboration will attract more industry to Illinois and the entire Midwest region. Like the U of I's current world-class research park in Urbana-Champaign, this lab will operate on the principles of innovation and entrepreneurship.

This will be a center of long-term, large-scale research projects that will unite the best and brightest of the University of Illinois, the city of Chicago, and government and industry, while at the same time give a high-profile image for the University of Illinois in the Chicagoland area.

Illinois' biggest technical challenge is retaining its talent. Thirty-two percent of computer science graduates from the U of I get jobs in California alone. This project's goal is to retain the next generation of Illinois-trained talent with hopes that they'll grow existing companies or start new businesses.

I am proud to recognize the continuous advancements made by the University of Illinois on all of their campuses.

## KEYSTONE XL AND TAR SANDS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my grave concerns about the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, the existence of which is awaiting a decision by the administration.

Last week, 84 of my colleagues—82 Republicans and 2 Democrats—introduced H.R. 3, a bill that would approve the construction and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline.

The world's foremost climatologist, Dr. James Hansen—and one of the first scientists to warn of the dangers of burning carbon fuel and a partial recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize—has

likened the building and use of the Keystone pipeline to the lighting of a carbon bomb—game over.

When you brush aside the studies by TransCanada and other oil companies and you analyze the pure scientific studies, every analysis clearly demonstrates that the Keystone XL pipeline poses major threats at every turn in its extraction, its transportation, its refining, and its consumption—threats to our Earth.

The truth of the matter is the U.S. isn't even going to be using those fossil fuels transported by that pipeline; they're going straight to China. In fact, the only proposed feasible method of getting those Canadian tar sands to China or any other country is by building the Keystone XL pipeline to feed into the port in Houston, Texas.

I urge my colleagues to stop the Keystone XL pipeline, avoid lighting that carbon bomb in our country, oppose H.R. 3, and return our focus to initiatives that center on true energy independence through renewable resources and greener production.

Save the Earth.

## REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, since President Obama has taken office, over \$6 trillion has been added to our national debt. This is more than under any President in history.

Since President Obama has taken office, we have had 4 consecutive years of over trillion-dollar-plus deficits. These deficits have led to a national debt of almost \$17 trillion.

In 2009, the President promised that he would not sign a health care law that adds one dime to our deficits. Well, a recent report from the GAO finds that ObamaCare will add over \$6 trillion to our long-term deficits.

For the sake of our country and our children's future, we must repeal this massive government overreach into our health care system. The Republican House budget does that, and therefore I will support it.

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## EXPANDED MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR TEXANS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, \$5 trillion in surplus was extinguished in the last Republican administration. It had been created by President Clinton.

The Affordable Care Act will help provide the health coverage that is needed by millions of Americans. I rise today to speak particularly about Texas.

Some 24 percent of the population of Texas is uninsured, and yet our State